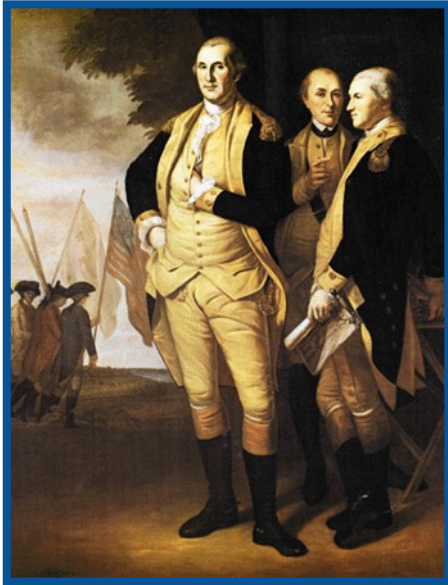


Wentz Post

A Publication of the Peter Wentz Farmstead Society

Volume XXXV, No. 1

WENTZ POST Spring 2018



(Portrait of Washington, Lafayette and Tench Tilghman, ADC by Charles Wilson Peale.)

WASHINGTON'S MILITARY FAMILY

by Theodore T. Edgar, Historian/Tour Guide, Montgomery County Park Ranger

***"Mr. President, Tho' I am truly sensible of the high Honour done me, in this Appointment, yet I feel great distress, from a consciousness that my abilities and military experience may not be equal to the extensive and important Trust... I beg it may be remembered, by every Gentleman in the room, that I, this day, declare with the utmost sincerity, I do not think myself equal to the Command I am honored with."* George Washington, addressing the Congress upon his appointed as Commander-in-Chief of the Continental Army, June 16, 1775.**

George Washington was a great man accomplishing incredible things in his brief 67 years of life, but no one ascends into the annals of history without the help of many others around them. Washington relied on thousands of soldiers under his command who fought the battles and endured the hardships of war and received guidance and support from his many officers. His wife travelled hundreds of miles across rough terrain in harsh weather to join him to provide help at winter encampments. There were government officials and financiers who secured the supplies, money, recruits, and foreign support needed. All of these people helped pave the way for Washington to gain our independence from the British and also secured the immortality of George Washington.

Many people assume that Washington traveled by himself or that he was the only general in the army to command the continental army. There is also a misperception that those who hosted him, like Rosanna and Peter Wentz, merely provide a hot meal and a cot for the night. But that is anything but true. Between 1775 and 1783, Washington stayed in dozens of houses and taverns or encamped on private property and he was never alone. There were upwards of 50 to 300 body guards around his headquarters, dozens of servants and slaves who worked for him and within a few miles away were 10,000 soldiers, hundreds of officers and unknown numbers of camp followers and civilian sutlers.

Washington also had a small group of both military and civilian men who kept his headquarters running efficiently; of the military staff officers there were two aides-de-camp and a secretary. They were mostly young to middle-aged members of aristocratic families, well-educated and severely loyal to Washington and the cause of Liberty. Thirty-two men over eight years of war held the title of Aide-de-Camp, but to the General they were his "family". Some held the position for a short time, some for years volunteering just for the honor of serving the cause and General Washington. The duties of a secretary and of an aide differed. The secretary kept all the Commander's paperwork organized; there were logs and records, correspondence and daily orders handwritten into the orderly book. Each day an officer from each brigade would travel to the headquarters to transcribe the orders from Washington's orderly book into his brigade orderly book to be brought back to the Brigadier General in camp and read to the troops. The secretary was the first point of contact at headquarters, he addressed the issues and set up meetings with the Commander. The Secretary was entrusted with writing the Commander's letters and keeping logs of correspondences and sat in on every meeting to take notes and give advice. He was in every way the general's right-hand man and most solid confident and paid higher at the rank of colonel.

Washington dictated letters to his secretary who wrote them out at least in duplicate, or as many copies as needed, as well as copying them into a journal - all done with a quill pen and ink. Responding letters were also recorded. For example, while Washington was headquartered at the Wentz farm he received a letter from General Gates who was commanding the American Army at Saratoga. The letter was forwarded to the Continental Congress along with Washington's own letter of introduction and comments. The secretary recorded a copy of each letter into the journal, wrote out copies for Washington's signature and instructed an aide to deliver the message from the Wentz home to Congress in York, PA. That was but one letter, according to Arthur S.

(Continued on page 3.)

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Peter Wentz Farmstead Society is to preserve and interpret the 18th century Pennsylvania German farmstead established by the Wentz and Schultz families, which is now on the National Register of Historic Places. The Society's goal is to stimulate public interest and support the site's heritage through educational programs and public events focusing on the architecture, crafts, customs, and furnishings of the period.

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WENTZ POST-Frank Luther

Peter Wentz Farmstead**Hours of Operation**

Tuesday-Saturday: 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM

Sunday: 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM

Last Tour: 3:00 PM

WENTZ POST

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in the Peter Wentz Farmstead Society.

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SOCIETY 'WANT ADS'

Are you interested in being more involved with the Society? Have some extra time and want to feel useful? Do you have an interest in sharing your skills and thoughts with a very dedicated group of people? The Society is looking for potential additions to join us on the Board and for specific projects we are working on. Are you creative? Do you have computer skills? Have an interest in helping in the Museum Shop? I invite those interested to give me a call at 610-405-1516 to find out more information.

PWFS Annual Spring Meeting

Our Spring meeting is on April 19, our DESSERT ONLY meeting. So we will start the yummy eating at 6:00 and the business meeting and presentation at 6:30. Our speaker this year is Gregory J. Scott, a senior partner in the architectural firm of RLPS Architects in Lancaster County. The title of his presentation is: **Early American Pennsylvania Architecture: The First One Hundred Years; 1710 – 1810**. Special attention will be placed on the unique architectural features of the Peter Wentz Homestead.

Program to be held in The Founder's Hall of the Central Schwenkfelder Church, located at 2111 Valley Forge Road. Call the Farmstead to RSVP.

Lefkowitz, in his 2003 book entitled, George Washington's Indispensable Men: The 32 aides-de-camp who helped win American independence, there were over 12,000 letters and records written during this eight-year war!

The aides-de-camp were the "gophers" for the General; they delivered messages, ran errands, paid bills, escorted dignitaries to camp, added to security, and assisted with the correspondences. Normally an aide held the rank of lieutenant colonel. Due to the enormous workload, everyone was expected to perform any task at hand and Washington even appointed the officers of his own life guard unit as unofficial aides. Washington stated in a January 29, 1778 letter, to Congress, "...that they [his staff] ought all to be men of abilities.... But a consideration still more forcible is, that in a service so complex as ours, it would be wrong and detrimental to restrict the choice; the vast diversity of objects, occurrences and correspondences, unknown in one more regular and less diffusive; constantly calling for talents and abilities of the first rate,..." In other words, he needed very special men and not be limited to choosing just from officers in the army.

Qualifications for the General's staff included be an experienced horseman who could ride for days to deliver messages, formally educated and able to write well, trustworthy and as deeply devoted to the cause. It also did not hurt if one had a pleasant disposition since they were living in tight quarters during trying times. Mostly, since he was not authorized to pay more than three staff members, he needed men of means who willingly bore the cost of being an aide with no promise of future compensation.

The following were known to have been at the Wentz farm headquarters in October 1777:

Tench Tilghman, John Laurens, James McHenry, Richard Kidder Meade, John Fitzgerald, Robert Hanson Harrison, Captain Caleb Gibbs - Commander of the Life Guard and Lieutenant William Colfax - Executive of the Life Guard (both unofficial aides). Tench Tilghman, the longest serving secretary and aide-de-camp, wrote to his father on October 7, 1776, about his strong sense of loyalty and obligation to serve Washington: "*The General has treated me in a manner the most confidential, he has instructed me and one other gentleman of his Family, his secretary, with his most private opinions on more occasions than one,.. Was I to leave him now, crowded as he is by business... would not my conduct appear suspicious to him, would it not look as if I had ingratiated myself with him purposefully to make myself master of his secrets, and then to take an advantage?*" Oswald Tilghman, ed., Memoirs of Lieutenant Colonel Tench Tilghman.

There are no known accounts describing the time they spent at the Wentz home. But in May 1777 a behind the scenes description of this "military family" was written by Martha Daingerfield Bland the wife of Col. Theodorick Bland. Bland wrote to her sister-in-law while staying at winter quarters in Morristown, NJ. (Note: Winter quarters lasted six months with more time for frivolity such as visiting, dances, hunts and grand dinners that did not occur during the fighting season.) "*Now let me speak of our Noble and Agreeable Commander (for he commands both Sexes) one by his Excellent Skill in Military Matters*

the other by his ability politeness and attention we visit them twice or three times a week by particular invitation...he is generally busy in the forenoon—but from dinner till night he is free for all company his Worthy Lady [Martha Washington] seems to be in perfect felicity while she is by the side of her Old Man as she calls him, we often make partys on Horse Back, the Genl, his lady, Miss Livingstone & his Aid de Camps who are Colo Fitz Gerald and agreeable broad shouldered Irishman—Colo Johnson Brother of Mrs Malone... Colo Hamilton a sensible Genteel polite young fello...—Colo Meade—Colo Tillman a modest worthy man who from his attachment to the Genl vollenterly lives in his family and acts in any capacity that is uppermost without fee or reward—Colo Harrison, Brother of Billy Harrison...—Capt (Caleb) Gibbs of the Genls Guard a good natured Yankee who makes a thousand Blunders in the Yankee stile and keeps the Dinner table in constant Laugh—These are the Genls family, all polite sociable gentlemen who make the day pass with a great deal of satisfaction to the Visitors—but I had forgot my subject almost, that is our riding party Generly—at which time General Washington throws of the Hero—and takes on the chatty agreeable companion—he can be downright impudent sometimes—such impudence, Fanny, as you and I like" N.J. Historical Society Proceedings, 51:250–53.

Another account of a quiet moment shared while on campaign in New Jersey by Secretary James McHenry, July of 1778: *After viewing these falls [Passaic Falls] we seated ourselves round the General under a large spreading oak within view of the spray and in hearing of the noise. A fine cool bubbled out most charmingly from the bottom of the tree. The traveling canteens were immediately emptied and a modest repast was set before us, of cold ham, tongue, and some biscuits. With assistance of a little spirit we composed some excellent grog. Then we chatted away a very cheerful half-hour—then took our leave of the oak- it's refreshing spring—and the meek falls of the Passaic.* Bernard C. Steiner, "The Life and Correspondences of James McHenry: Secretary of War under Washington and Adams" (Cleveland: The Burrows Brothers Company, 1907.)

From these accounts we can assume that life at the Wentz headquarters was very busy and stressful as the staff was preparing for the battle at Germantown. Washington had to find areas with woodlots and ample water suitable for an army of 10,000 men to encamp. He needed wagons and horses to move food and supplies to camp transport the wounded and ill to the hospitals. He needed orders written and sent to camp, and letters delivered to the Congress in York. He required a staff who could meet with civilians coming to complain about theft or vandalism or wishing to sell goods to the army. But there were lighter times too; Washington commonly enjoyed a dinner table surrounded by his aides and invited officers with the expected rounds of toasts and jubilant conversation. There was no time for hunts, rides in the country or dances with army wives as during the winter quarters, but even in the fighting season Washington knew the value of comradery and merriment amongst his staff.

Your Most humble and obedient servant: T. Edgar



LETTER FROM THE ADMINISTRATOR

by Dianne M. Cram

Every winter I think – now is the “slow” time of year, but that never really seems to be the case at the Farmstead. The staff is as busy as ever, with many projects in the works and programs being planned for the upcoming year.

Just to give you an idea of what is “in the mill” for 2018: We are in the midst of some major maintenance projects; over at Kre-Belle farm a new septic system is going in and a much-needed new roof being put on the old creamery building there. On the Wentz side of the creek we are doing some investigative work to determine the condition of the balcony and supporting joists on the Wentz house; a new chicken house will soon be underway; and the trim on the Wentz house will get some fresh paint this spring. Maintenance projects may not be the most exciting things happening, but there is always a sigh of relief when we are able to scratch one off the list.

There is a fine array of programs, new as well as tried and true, planned. The most popular Sheep Shearing event will be on April 21, followed soon after by the Perkiomen Watershed Conservancy’s native plant sale on May 12, and before we can catch our breath, it will once again be Camp season. Please mark the dates so you don’t miss any. If you haven’t been here for a while, plan a visit and bring friends and family. I actually recommend coming on a nice quiet day when there isn’t a large event. That way you can have a “customized” tour of the house and farm. There are some wonderful new acquisitions to the collection on exhibit in the historic house and some darling new additions to our farm--- lambs and calves. And we welcomed on a new staff member, Ginny, who will be happy to give you that deluxe tour.

So, as I write this in between two major late winter storms, I can say that spring and the “busy” season will surely be welcomed this year. Thank you for all your continued support of our efforts at the Farmstead. We do all this because we love this farm and we know that you love it as well.



PRESIDENT’S REPORT

from Kathy Yost

This is one of the ‘funnest’ issues you will ever see. If you had any doubt that we are a FARMSTEAD, you won’t anymore. As you wander through the articles and pictures, our mission comes to life. You cannot visit the Farmstead now without running into some person or animal or plant that makes you smile and gives you hope for Spring and warmth and growth. I personally have become very attached to the eyelashes on our new baby Jazz. She is beautiful. I just had to print this issue in color!

Lee Kirk and I met with Dianne last week and I was impressed with the buzz of activity and her ‘what’s next’ list. Plans are in the works for a new chicken coop and research is being done on some specialized repairs

coming to the Wentz house. Dianne is right--- there is no slow time on a farm.

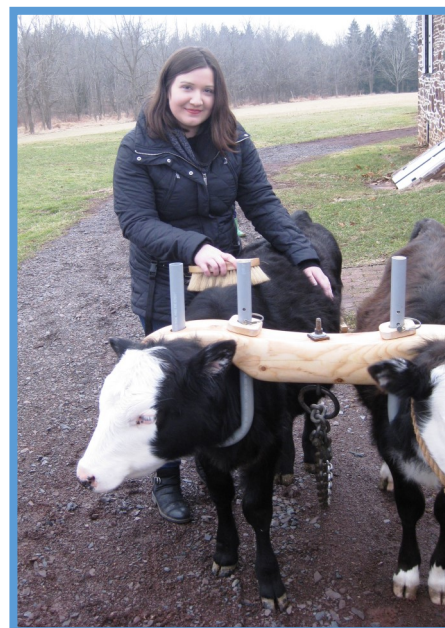
The Board is looking forward to seeing you all at our Spring meeting on April 19 at the Schwenkfelder Church. This is our DESSERT ONLY meeting so we will start the yummy eating at 6:00 and the business meeting and presentation at 6:30. Better get there on time--- I have seen you all in action with forks before!

Our speaker this year is Gregory J. Scott. Some of you may have been lucky enough to hear his presentation before. He is a senior partner in the architectural firm of RLPS Architects in Lancaster County. Gregg is a two-time recipient of the Lancaster Historic Preservation Trust award recognizing a journalist and educator who demonstrates extraordinary support for historic preservation. Gregg also writes a monthly architectural column for *Lancaster Newspapers* entitled *Design Intervention*. The title of his presentation is:

Early American Pennsylvania Architecture: The first one hundred years; 1710 – 1810

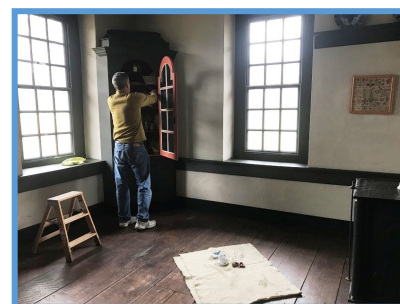
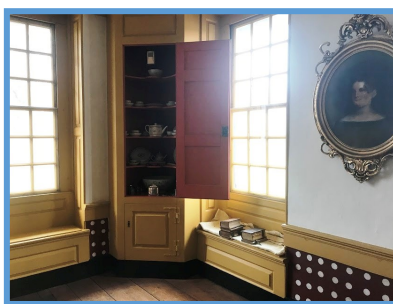
An exploration of the four most dominate architectural styles of the time; Germanic, Traditional English and Georgian and conclude with Federal. Special attention will be placed on the unique architectural features of the Peter Wentz Homestead.

One last note--- there is a favorite picture of mine in this issue. It shows our VERY tall sheep eating grass in the field. No, he is not having a problem! He is so tall that he has to get down on his knees to reach the grass. Guess what! The other sheep think that is so cool that they have adopted his habit. So when you visit just know these sheep are not broken!!! They just want to be one of the gang (or should I say flock). Happy Spring!



WELCOME, GINNY, MUSEUM ASSISTANT

(Please see page 5.)



WINTER CHORES AND TREATS, SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 10TH FROM 10AM-3PM

In many cultures the days just before the start of Lent meant a time for celebration and feasting and the PA Germans were no different. On Saturday, February 10, 2018, the Farmstead hosted forty-six visitors who watched us make Fastnachts and other pre-Lenten treats in the Summer Kitchen that were shared. But work on the farm never stops, so there were also demonstrations of other winter activities---preserving meats using the smokehouse, splitting wood for fires, and farm tours. In addition, the interior of the historic house was thoroughly cleaned---huzzah!

(Photos courtesy of Jay, Sarah, and Kimberly.)



WELCOME, GINNY, MUSEUM ASSISTANT!

Virginia Kopacki, our new museum assistant, is a recent graduate of Dickinson College where she majored in Anthropology and Women's & Gender Studies. Many of her academic interests center on the experiences of marginalized women during and after the Civil War. She has presented her research at conferences, including the American Anthropological Association. Ginny worked as a living historian for Gettysburg National Military Park and Old Sturbridge Village, as the curator for the LGBT Center of Central PA: History Project, and most recently as the Site Manager and Volunteer Coordinator at the William Brinton 1704 House in West Chester, Pennsylvania. Ginny is thrilled to be joining the Farmstead family and can't wait to share her love of history with everyone! As Museum Assistant Virginia's primary job is historical interpretation and conducting guided tours to our visitors. She will also assist with Kim with educational programs and Sarah with curatorial projects.



SHOPPING AT THE FARMSTEAD

by Susan Bishop

What is new in the Museum Shop? Well, since you asked....new merchandise is coming in daily. Stop in, say hello, and pick up the new:

- Peter Wentz lapel or hat pins,
- Dishwasher safe pint glasses,
- Insulated stainless steel growlers or glass growlers with canvas tote,
- Cute wooden snow globe style Peter Wentz Farmstead Society Ornaments,
- Cuddly plush lambs,
- Adorable felt animals and birds brighten the shop as well,
- Items crafted by local artists---wood boxes, candle boxes, belt buckles and mind puzzles all made by a gifted, local craftsman, Richard Clapper,
- George Washington coloring books illustrated by a local artist.

We strive to carry a broad selection of merchandise for everyone and we still carry our tried and true box and wooden tape looms, books on how to use them, and woven tape crafted by our own "Tape Lady".

IN MEMORIAM


IN MEMORY of ROBERT M. ROTHENBERGER
March 8, 1924 – January 6, 2018

Robbie Rothenberger was born and spent his life on "Kre-Belle Farm" the last descendant to live on this farm which his ancestor Melchior Schultz purchased in 1794. Robbie was first and always a farmer but also served as Justice of the Peace, a community constable, and was the Director of Montgomery County Parks Department at the time the Peter Wentz Farmstead was being restored as a public historic site. Robbie dedicated his life to farming, his family, and to preserving the land that was his family's heritage. In Robbie's elder years he sold "Kre-Belle" farm to the County which united it once again to the original Wentz/Schultz farm ensuring its preservation. Robbie and his wife Doris were not only good stewards of the land, but good neighbors to the Peter Wentz Farmstead.


IN MEMORY of ELWOOD BRUNT
December 12, 1915 – January 30, 2018

Our neighbor and long-time friend to the Farmstead, Elwood Brunt, passed away at the age of 102. Elwood resided his entire life in Worcester Township, built a home on Weber Road where he raised his family and also operated a mink farm. But so many local residents knew Elwood through his amazing collection of Native American artifacts that he displayed at his small museum and made available to all who wanted to visit. We were happy to have had the chance to listen to some of Elwood's stories and memories of Worcester and the time he spent at the Wentz/Schultz farm during his youth. Elwood's last visit to the Farmstead was in September 2017 when he attended our volunteer picnic, and we were honored to have him attending as our oldest friend and supporter.



(Colleagues from the Museum of the American Revolution)



(University of Delaware students)

THE FARMSTEAD AS CLASSROOM FOR ADULT LEARNERS

by Kimberly Boice

Recently the staff of the Farmstead hosted colleagues from the Museum of the American Revolution and students from the University of Delaware. We were able to offer them a very different experience than what is normally possible at their respective institutions and had a great time working and learning with them. We look forward to working with them more in the future and developing similar opportunities for others.

On Thursday, January 25th we hosted hearth cook & historian Deborah Peterson for a hands-on domestic skills workshop for the Gallery Educators of the Museum of the American Revolution. Dressed in their period clothing and ready to learn, the Educators began by hauling armloads of firewood to be used for baking in the bake oven and cooking in the hearth. They then read-through the 18th-century receipts for "A Carrot Pudding" in a "...cool Butter Paste...", white bread, and a seasonal soup before dividing the tasks to prepare each using appropriate techniques and tools. The workshop allowed the Educators to gain first-hand experience in domestic foodways during the Revolutionary War and will allow them to better engage visitors to their museum about the topic. To learn more about the Museum, visit them on Facebook- AmRevMuseum or at www.amrevmuseum.org

On Thursday, February 1st we welcomed students from the University of Delaware- Behind-the-Scenes at Museums course, their teacher, & the Museum Studies program coordinator. As part of the course they have assigned readings and discussions followed by a site visit to a museum in the region that addresses the topic of that week. While here they learned about interpreting agricultural history, including a guided visit by farmer Jim with the animals, a full tour of the historic house, and casual conversation about wearing period clothing, hosting ghost tours, and good/bad tour guides. Their feedback was great and will help us continue to offer a quality experience to future visitors.

PWFS TRIP LEADER REPORT*by Jim Hern*

Unfortunately, we had to cancel and refund the Society's scheduled trip to the Museum of the American Revolution (MAR) in Philadelphia as we did not have enough people signed up. It was scheduled for November 11, 2017 which was also Veterans Day. Many members realized they had made other plans for that date. Anyone still interested in visiting the MAR can do so by joining one of Hagey's one-day tours which are set for Thursday, June 21 OR Saturday, October 27. These tours are \$50.00 per person and leave from the Montgomery Mall parking lot or their Souderton location. Reservations can be made by calling Hagey at 1-800-544-2439.

The Society's Trip Committee has scheduled a tour of the Brandywine Museum of Art in Chadd's Ford, Pennsylvania for Thursday, June 14. We will leave the Peter Wentz parking lot at 8:00 AM and return by 6:00 PM. The cost will be \$77.00 per person for adults and \$70.00 for children under the age of 18 or college students. See attached flyer if you would like to sign up. Lunch will be on your own in the museum's restaurant. Their menu includes hot and cold sandwiches, salads and beverages. Your tour includes a docent-led visit to the museum and its four floors of art galleries, the H.C. Wyeth house and studio, the Andrew Wyeth studio and the Keurner farm. All areas are handicap accessible with limited wheelchairs available if needed. We look forward to having you join us for this special event.

**WENTZ GARDEN***by Donna Armstrong*

Thanks to inspiration from a groundhog on this February 2 ? !

Everybody gets anxious for Spring and the Wentz Weeds are no exception. Gardeners visualize planting long before the soil is ready because we've got a stash of seed packets waiting in the wings.

Wayne Brunt, Lori Curtis, Melanie Kilgannon, Paul Menard, Sandra Sweeney, Pat Wolbach, and Donna Armstrong are all hoping Punxsutawney Phil is wrong!

BRINGING SLAVERY INTO THE CONVERSATION*by Sarah Biehl, Curator*

The Wentz family is a mystery to the staff. Most of what is known has been gathered from tax records and probates. The records offer a glimpse into their farming practices and possessions, but leaves out the humanization of the family, like their appearances or personalities. The same cannot be said for a man named Jack who was enslaved on the farmstead. He can be found in tax records, as simply a number written next to the word, "Negro." The Wentz's owned two slaves, but there are no additional facts on the second. Jack is only remembered because of his attempts at freedom. In two separate occasions, he left in the night on a pursuit of independence and these actions are known because Peter Wentz posted the advertisements in the Pennsylvania *Gazette*.

The examples below are the transcribed runaway advertisements from *the Pennsylvania Gazette* depicting Jack's attempts at freedom.

*November 6, 1766**The Pennsylvania Gazette***FORTY SHILLINGS Reward.**

RUN away from the Subscriber, living in Worcester township, Philadelphia county, on Thursday, the 16th of October last; a Negroe man, named Jack, about 26 years old, about 5 feet 4 or 5 inches high, a thick set fellow; had on, when he went away, a light coloured lincey jacket, a striped lincey under jacket, without sleeves, tow trowsers, good shoes and stockings, a good felt hat, wears it cocked; one of his legs is thicker than the other from the ankle to the knee. Whoever takes up the said Negroe, and secures him in any goal, or brings him to the Subscriber, shall have the above Reward, besides Charges, from PETER WENTZ.

*January 11, 1770**The Pennsylvania Gazette***FOUR DOLLARS Reward.**

RUN away, on Christmas day last, from the subscriber, living in Worcester township, Philadelphia county, a Negroe man, named JACK, about 34 or 35 years of age, about 5 feet 5 or 6 inches high, and his left leg much thicker than the right; had on, a new white lincey jacket, an under ditto, without sleeves, buckskin breeches, light blue yarn stockings, new shoes, with large brass buckles, and a good wool hat. He says he has liberty from me to look for another master. Whoever takes up said Negroe, and brings him to me, or secures him in any of his Majesty's goals, so that I may get him again, shall have the above reward, and reasonable charges, paid by PETER WENTZ.

N.B. All Masters of Vessels are forbid to carry him off, at their peril.

This information describes Jack in great detail, including his deformed leg, and the quote, "He says he has liberty from me to look for another master." It's relatively easy to envision Jack's appearance, but his personality is still an unknown. The quote is a clue into perhaps a strong-willed individual. The Wentz family will always be the main mission of the farmstead, but Jack played a vital role, and we have decided to begin focusing on him in a more profound way. There are two projects currently in the works for the interpretation. The first is a permanent exhibit within the historic house and the other is a half-

day conference.

The exhibit will be displayed in the loft portion of the house and depict a northern slave dwelling. A mattress will be placed on the floor, along with other objects, and the recreated outfit that Jack wore in the 1770 runaway advertisement. The outfit will be lying on the bed beside the ad, so visitors will have a representation of the description. The irony of this project is that in the 18th century Jack's apparel would have been relatively cheap, since they are the popular fashions for most working men, but in the 21st century, recreating this outfit is pricey. The farmstead has been lucky enough to receive grants from the local Quester Chapters: Hope Lodge 1394, Gaudy Dutch 270, Militia Hill 5, and Heritage 1, along with matching donations from Pennsylvania Questers. The exhibit will be opening in January 2018. The half-day conference is designed for reenactors, museum professionals, and hobbyist who would like to learn more about the interpretation of slavery and the complications that are associated with it. People have strong emotions towards this topic, so this conference is designed to address those issues. This program is still in the development stages, but once the details are solidified a formal program announcement will be publicized.



"SLOW" SEASON ON THE FARM

by Dianne Cram

If you were thinking farmers get a break during the "slow" winter season on the farm, just stop by the Farmstead and talk with Jim, Jay or Rich (that is if you can track them down and hold them still long enough to talk.) Early in the morning you can find Jay out "walking" our young oxen Peg and Sam. The girls are only six months old now, but they are in a calf-sized yoke and able to pull a small sled or stone boat behind them. This training is important to get them used to the yoke and commands and as they grow into larger yokes gradually weight will be added to the stone boat. The girls love affection and the attention they get seems to be part of their reward for good work.

We are happy to announce the birth of new little girl – Jazz. This little heifer was born on February 25th and Mama Sweetie and baby are doing grand and little Jazz has already been out romping in the snow for the first time. Farmer Rich told us that jazz music was playing on the radio at the time she arrived – hence her name.

The ewes decided not to wait until spring to produce new lambs. At least six have arrived and we expect more. Mostly the lambs look like Daddy Moe---dark brown. By Sheep Shearing day in April, they will be a fairly good size.

Snow storms have kept our Farmers busy since they are the ones out in the teeth of the storm keeping the roads, paths, and parking lot cleared. And then there is all the clean-up afterwards from storm damage; heavy winds and wet snow took a toll on a lot of trees.

A new chicken house and fence will be built this year; fence lines around pastures always need mending, and equipment always needs maintenance (that's a rainy-day project). Later in spring the Farmers will be reclaiming the large field adjacent to the parking lot and Shearer Road. You may have noticed corn growing there in the past summers. Our farmers will be reconditioning that field back to hay which will give us more feed supply for our livestock and also for potential sale.

School group season is fast approaching, and we've already had some classes here this winter, our Farmers take time out of their already busy schedules to conduct farm tours for students. These Farmers don't get a chance to "put their feet up" and relax in any season!



Peter Wentz Farmstead Summer Day Camps

Options for children entering

Pre-K to 6th grades



Colonial Camp: Week of June 25th

Mitte Camp: Week of July 16th

Wentz Wonder Kids Camp:

Week of July 30th